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WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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Gelligaer Urban District Council.



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Glam.*

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1956



Collegiate Urban District Council



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REPORT OF THE
LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH
AND THE
HYGIC PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1886



To the Chairman and Members of the Gelligaer Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1956.

The Report is prepared on lines indicated in Circular 19/56 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

The Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. T. P. Thomas, is included. The designation "Sanitary Inspector" has been placed in honourable retirement, giving place to "Public Health Inspector". The new title indicates the many aspects of public health which are the concern of a Public Health Department and its officers.

The estimated population of the Urban Area is 36,210, an increase of 40 during the year.

As judged by the Table of Vital Statistics, the health of the community has been satisfactory, apart from the high Infantile Mortality, to which I draw special attention, as I did in my Report for 1955. I have included a chart showing new sickness claims made upon the Ministry of National Insurance, and also, for comparison, a chart of claims made in 1955. These claims are mainly from the residents in the Gelligaer Area. They show the seasonal variation of sickness, but not the total number of people ill at any time.

During the year, our community was again largely free from Infectious Disease. The work of prevention of Infectious Disease is being continued by the Local Health Authority. On page 14, I refer to the new work of protecting school children from Poliomyelitis.

In the section on Housing, there is no substantial progress to record; apart from the Slum Clearance at Pontlloctyn, which was commenced during the year. I give details of the Scheme, and some illustrations showing the type of house demolished.

The Council continues to be seriously handicapped by lack of suitable building sites.

The Public Services of Water Supply, Sewerage and Public Cleansing were maintained, at times with difficulty, throughout the year. Hard frost and burst water pipes were in the news early in the year.

In January 1956, a landslide near Bedlinog demolished the new sewer from Bedlinog, and it has not yet been possible to repair this serious damage.

Refuse Tips continue to be troublesome , especially to neighbouring dwellings, because of fire, and flies and rats. Controlled tipping and covering with earth is easy to suggest, but difficult to attain. Disinfection is carried out at regular intervals.

There was a welcome fall in the incidence of Tuberculosis during the year :-

1940	-	77
1941	-	67
1942	-	83
1943	-	83
1944	-	89
1945	-	68
1946	-	63
1947	-	49
1948	-	49
1949	-	51
1950	-	54
1951	-	38
1952	-	44
1953	-	34
1954	-	54
1955	-	57
1956	-	33

The 33 cases notified include 2 inward transfers, so the number actually discovered in the area was 31. No public Mass Radiography Survey was made during the year. A special survey of school children in Pontlottyn was carried out following the diagnosis of tuberculous meningitis in a school child.

The Council has continued to make grants to voluntary organisations in the Area who work so enthusiastically on behalf of the aged. The Chiropody Clinic at Bargoed, specially mentioned in my Report of 1954, continues to give much appreciated service.

During the year, the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 came into force. The Public Health Inspectors made numerous visits to food establishments for explanation and discussion with Managements. Most food traders have readily accepted the new conditions, and have done, and are doing, their utmost to give a hygienic food service. The small "Parlour" type shop and the small street trading van, are not up to standard as yet.

The Members of the Council have continued to give my colleagues and myself every help and encouragement ; while the Chief Officers have afforded me all assistance ; for all of which I am very grateful.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. BOWEN OWEN

Medical Officer of Health.

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman	-	E. E. Burgess, J.P.
Vice - Chairman	-	William Jones, J.P.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

W. H. Coleman
D. B. Cooke
John Davies
W. E. Davies
H. V. Edwards
Mrs. A. Haman
Alderman W. A. Hancock, J.P.
H. V. James
J. H. Jones
W. J. Kedwards, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.
W. H. Lee, C.C.
Hopkin Lewis
S. T. Lewis
W. J. Payne
Gwyn Phillips
W. Poyntz
G. T. Richards, J.P.
Brynley Roberts
H. L. Roberts
A. Williams
Cledwen Williams
D. Williams
H. J. Williams
Mrs. S. L. Williams, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman	-	Mrs. S. L. Williams, J.P.
Vice -Chairman	-	Alderman W. A. Hancock, J.P.

D. H. Coleman
D. B. Cooke
W. E. Davies
H. V. James
J. H. Jones
Mrs. A. Haman
W. J. Kedward, O.B.E., J.P. C.C.
W. H. Lee
Gwyn Phillips
G. T. Richards, J.P.
E. E. Burgess
William Jones, J.P.

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CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council	- D.W.C.Morgan, Ll.B.
Treasurer and Accountant	- Rhys Williams
Engineer and Surveyor	- W. T. Luke, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.
Housing Manager	- G. Llyd Williams
Omnibus Manager	- W. H. Collins

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	- W. Bowen Owen, J.P., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	- T. P. Thomas, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A. Cert. Meat Inspector, Royal Society of Health.
District Public Health Inspectors	- D. G. Vallis, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, Royal Society of Health. E. G. Rawlings, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A. Cert. Meat Inspector, Royal Society of Health.
Rodent Officer	- T. J. Morris
Clerical Staff	- L. Chilton

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Contributions in respect of salaries are made by the County Council towards emoluments of the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors ; also included is the amount paid by the Rhymney and Sirhowy Valleys Hospital Management Committee for part-time clerical assistance given by Miss Chilton at the Gelligaer Hospital :-

<u>Service</u>	<u>Period of one year ending</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salaries of Medical Officer and Public Health Inspectors and clerk.	31st. March, 1956	£ 1720

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GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT

Population	-	36, 210
Total acreage	-	16, 772
Rateable Value	-	£209,414
Product of ld. Rate	-	£710
No. of Inhabited Houses-		9,954

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	Estimated population 1956	Births		Deaths	Deaths per 1,000		Infant Deaths under 1 year	Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	Deaths under 4 weeks	Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
		Number of Births	Rate per 1,000 population		Number of Deaths	Crude	Adjusted			
England and Wales										
Administrative County	1738,000	11,625	15.7	15.60	9,053	11.7	13.99	23.8	236	20.29
Urban Districts	534,500	8,574	16.04	15.88	6,533	12.22	14.05	29.97	164	19.13
Rural Districts	203,500	3,055	15.01	15.31	2,520	12.38	13.49	31.10	72	23.57
Health Division										
Constituent Districts										
Aberdare & Mountain Ash	40,240	563	13.99	14.55	622	15.46	15.61	28.42	13	23.09
do.	30,670	462	15.06	14.91	390	12.72	15.39	25.97	8	17.32
Caerphilly & Gelligaer	37,110	764	20.59	19.56	407	10.97	14.70	27.49	12	15.71
Gelligaer Urban	36,210	644	17.79	18.32	422	11.65	14.68	48.14	18	27.95
Mid Glamorgan										
Bridgend Urban	14,500	261	18.00	17.10	154	10.62	11.26	34.48	9	34.48
Maesteg Urban	22,660	373	16.46	16.62	232	10.24	13.00	24.13	6	16.09
Ogmore & Garw U.	22,240	360	16.19	16.35	273	12.28	14.74	33.33	10	27.78
Porthcawl Urban	9,980	134	13.43	13.83	140	14.03	12.07	37.31	2	14.93
Penybont Rural	35,270	535	15.17	15.17	499	14.15	12.59	42.99	19	35.51
Neath and District	31,250	457	14.62	13.60	360	11.52	13.02	26.26	9	19.69
Neath Rural	41,350	589	14.24	13.96	470	11.37	14.44	28.86	12	20.37
Pontypridd & Llantrisant	25,700	426	16.58	15.92	271	10.54	13.49	32.86	11	25.82
Llantrisant	37,700	537	14.24	13.67	466	12.36	13.35	18.62	4	7.45
Port Talbot & Glyncoffwrwg	9,660	216	22.36	21.91	107	11.08	15.84	37.04	8	18.52
Glyncoffwrwg	47,130	883	18.74	18.18	496	10.52	13.57	28.31	18	20.39
South East Glamorgan										
Barry M.B.	41,920	731	17.44	16.74	448	16.69	11.76	31.46	23	17.78
Cardiff Rural	38,000	572	15.05	15.80	515	13.55	11.65	27.97	13	20.98
Cowbridge M.B.	1,030	13	12.61	13.25	19	18.45	19.19	-	-	-
Cowbridge Rural	19,240	309	16.06	17.99	141	7.33	12.75	22.65	4	12.94
Penarth Urban	19,040	303	15.91	15.75	241	12.66	11.77	23.10	5	16.50
West Glamorgan										
Gower Rural	11,890	185	15.56	16.49	147	12.36	10.38	32.43	5	27.03
Llwdwr Urban	25,760	349	13.55	13.96	310	12.03	14.08	34.38	7	20.06
Pontardawe Rural	32,050	439	13.70	13.97	477	14.88	16.07	27.33	9	20.50
Rhondda	107,400	1524	14.19	13.91	1446	13.46	15.61	29.53	26	17.06

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population - 36, 210

<u>Live Births</u>					<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	616	305	311
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	28	14	14
Total	644	319	325
<u>Still-Births</u>							
Legitimate	22	11	11
Illegitimate	2	2	-
Total	24	13	11

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LIVE BIRTHS

1939	724
1940	778
1941	733
1942	785
1943	777
1944	791
1945	742
1946	794
1947	...	...	...	...	830
1948	...	...	...	...	786
1949	...	...	...	...	759
1950	...	...	...	...	708
1951	...	...	...	...	631
1952	...	...	...	...	629
1953	...	...	...	...	664
1954	...	...	...	...	644
1955	...	...	...	...	672
1956	...	...	...	...	644

As a matter of interest, I give the following figures :-

BIRTHS

1901	717
1911	1720
1921	1363
1931	847
1941	733
1951	631

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INFANTILE MORTALITYStatistics

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year	-	31	24	7
Legitimate	-	31	24	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

As shown in the Table of Vital Statistics, the Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births in England and Wales was 23.8., in the Administrative County was 30.27; in Gelligaer was 48.14

1947	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	64.00
1948	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	42.00
1949	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	36.00
1950	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	36.72
1951	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	28.53
1952	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	31.8
1953	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	31.63
1954	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	45.03
1955	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	49.11
1956	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	48.14

In my Report for 1954, I said that the year was disappointing because there was a large number of Infant Deaths. In 1955, Gelligaer had the unenviable distinction of having the highest Infant Mortality Rate in the County of Glamorgan. In 1956, Gelligaer continued to fare worse than any other Authority in the County.

The gravity of the situation is fully appreciated. The Caerphilly and Gelligaer Health Division of the County Council (the Infant Welfare Authority) has made a detailed investigation of each infant death occurring in 1956. The Hospital Maternity Service has been reinforced by the appointment of an additional Consultant Obstetrician.

The causes of Death are tabulated below :-

Age	Deaths occurring			
	At Home		In Hospital	
	No.	Cause	No.	Cause
0 - 1 day	1	Spina Bifida	4	Prematurity
	-		1	Asphyxia Neonatorum
	-		1	Anencephaly
1 - 2 days	-		2	Prematurity
	-		1	Asphyxia Neonatorum
	-		2	Cerebral Haemorrhage
	-		1	Anencephaly
2 - 3 days	-		1	Asphyxia Neonatorum
	-		1	Pulmonary Haemorrhage
	-		1	Spina Bifida
3 - 4 days	-		-	
4 - 5 days	-		1	Broncho-pneumonia
5 - 6 days	-		1	Prematurity
6 - 7 days	-		-	
7 - 14 days	-		-	
14 - 28 days	-		-	
1 - 2 months	1	Gastro-enteritis	1	Congenital heart disease
2 - 3 months	1	Broncho-pneumonia	1	Paratyphoid B
3 - 4 months	2	Broncho-pneumonia	-	
4 - 5 months	-		1	Fibroelastosis
5 - 6 months	-		-	
6 - 7 months	-		-	
7 - 8 months	-		1	Misadventure
8 - 9 months	1	Haem. Streptococcus	-	
9 - 10 months	-		1	Meningitis
10 - 11 months	1	Misadventure	1	Acute Bronchiolitis
	1	Bronchopneumonia	-	
11 - 12 months	-		-	

DEATHS

Deaths during the year numbered 422 - Males 239, Females 183

1939	-	474
1940	-	435
1941	-	439
1942	-	410
1943	-	427
1944	-	440
1945	-	454
1946	-	422
1947	-	437
1948	-	356
1949	-	422
1950	-	406
1951	-	482
1952	-	433
1953	-	389
1954	-	437
1955	-	449
1956	-	422

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no Deaths in which pregnancy was a factor

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In considering the Registrar General's Returns, there are points of interest. Following there is a Table showing the number of Deaths in each of three age groups for the past ten years.

In considering the age at Death, it is interesting to note how many people live beyond the allotted span of three score years and ten.

Age at Death	Male	Female
65 - 69 years	34	25
70 - 74 years	30	23
75 - 79 years	34	36
80 and over	28	32

A comparison of age at Death in the past ten years is shown :-

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Number occurring before age of one	53	33	27	26	18	20	21	29	33	31
Number occurring between 1 and 65	168	156	150	150	193	144	145	144	135	139
Number occurring upward of 65	216	167	245	230	271	269	223	264	281	252

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CAUSE OF DEATH

The Chief Causes of Death were as follows :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases	70	53	123
Deaths from Cancer	33	35	68
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ...	21	30	51
Deaths from Measles	-	-	-
Deaths from Bronchitis	28	11	39
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis, Enteritis	1	1	2
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	4	3	7
Deaths from Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	2	3
Deaths from Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Deaths from Influenza	1	2	3
Deaths from Pneumonia	10	7	17
Deaths from other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	16	2	18
Deaths from Violent Causes	11	6	17

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DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Total number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis was 8.

Deaths from this Disease in the past few years are as follows :-

1939	-	28
1940	-	30
1941	-	24
1942	-	22
1943	-	31
1944	-	22
1945	-	27
1946	-	15
1947	-	20
1948	-	21
1949	-	26
1950	-	19
1951	-	13
1952	-	9
1953	-	10
1954	-	4
1955	-	8
1956	-	8

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DEATHS FROM CANCER

The number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer was 68 :-

1939	-	55
1940	-	43
1941	-	41
1942	-	49
1943	-	37
1944	-	61
1945	-	45
1946	-	57
1947	-	51
1948	-	44
1949	-	54
1950	-	55
1951	-	60
1952	-	64
1953	-	54
1954	-	57
1955	-	52
1956	-	68

In considering the cause of Death, Disease of the Heart and Circulatory System is again the most frequent; next comes Cancer, and third is Vascular Lesion of the Nervous System. It is observed that Deaths from Cancer have increased, while Cancer of the lung is again prominent.

Cancer of the Lung

1950	-	5	- all males
1951	-	13	- 11 males, 2 females
1952	-	6	- all males
1953	-	4	- 3 males, 1 female
1954	-	3	- all males
1955	-	11	- all males
1956	-	11	- 7 males, 4 females.

In 1956, the age groups are as follows :-

40 - 49	-	1 death
50 - 59	-	5 deaths
60 - 64	-	1 death
65 and over	-	4 deaths

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Deaths from Violent Causes occurred in 19 instances :-

Accident in the Home	-	5
Accident at Work	-	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	3

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PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Number of cases of Measles notified - 23
 Number of cases of Whooping Cough notified - 8

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - AGE DISTRIBUTION

Disease	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-75	75+	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	6	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	20
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	6	1	4	14
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	5
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
15 - 19	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	2	3	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 - 44	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 64	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	1
65 - 69	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
70 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	18	13	-	-	4	3	-	1

Total number of Deaths from Tuberculosis - 8

Number of Deaths of Notified Cases - 6

Number of Deaths of non-notified cases - 2

Ratio of non-notified cases to total Deaths from Tuberculosis - 1 : 4

The non-notified cases were found at Post Mortem examination to be Tuberculous Meningitis, one having a primary lung infection.

IMMUNISATION

Prior to 1940, the only large scale prevention of Infectious Disease by inoculation was vaccination against Smallpox.

In 1940, Immunisation against Diphtheria was commenced in Gelligaer. A few years later, immunisation against Whooping Cough was introduced at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

In 1955, B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis was made available by the Local Health Authority.

In 1956, another new preventive inoculation was made available - vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

Smallpox is almost a forgotten disease. Diphtheria is rarely seen. Tuberculosis is waning ; and now comes a preventive inoculation against Poliomyelitis. These are among the great events occurring in a single lifetime. The manufacture of the various vaccines, and the treatment of the children, are tasks of great responsibility.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

		<u>Primary</u>	<u>Re-vaccination</u>
1950	-	38	18
1951	-	137	64
1952	-	152	26
1953	-	177	45
1954	-	150	6
1955	-	125	21
1956	-	124	5

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

1940	-	816
1941	-	1859
1942	-	3504
1943	-	1305
1944	-	820
1945	-	939
1946	-	851
1947	-	780
1948	-	705
1949	-	469
1950	-	437
1951	-	483
1952	-	381
1953	-	417
1954	-	524
1955	-	474
1956	-	481

B. C. G. VACCINATION

During 1956, 314 children in the 1942 age group were B.C.G. Vaccinated.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

During 1956, 346 children were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis.

I am indebted to Dr. E. C. Powell, the Divisional Medical Officer of the Glamorgan County Council for information concerning Vaccination and Immunisation.

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HOUSING

Mr. T. Luke, B.Sc., the Council's Surveyor and Engineer, has supplied the following information :-

	Permanent dwellings	Temporary dwellings
<u>By the Local Authority :-</u>		
Number of houses completed and occupied during the year 1956	102	-
Number partly completed during 1956	8	-
Number sanctioned but not commenced	-	-
Total number of houses completed and occupied since 1918	1228	100
<u>By Private Enterprise, Building Societies, etc.</u>		
Number of houses completed and occupied during the year 1956	8	-
Number partly completed during the year 1956	4	-
Number for which plans were passed but not commenced during 1956	-	-

Mr. George Williams, the Council's Housing Manager, has supplied the following information :-

Number of families rehoused in 1956 - 141 - this number includes 65 families from the Pontllynn Clearance Area. One family, in which tuberculosis was a factor, was rehoused.

Waiting List - at 31st. December, 1956

Total number of applicants - 835
Families who are sub-tenants - 475

Of the sub-tenants, in 36% the family is of man and wife only;
in 35% the family is of man and wife and one child.

Slum clearance at Pontlloftyn was commenced during the year.

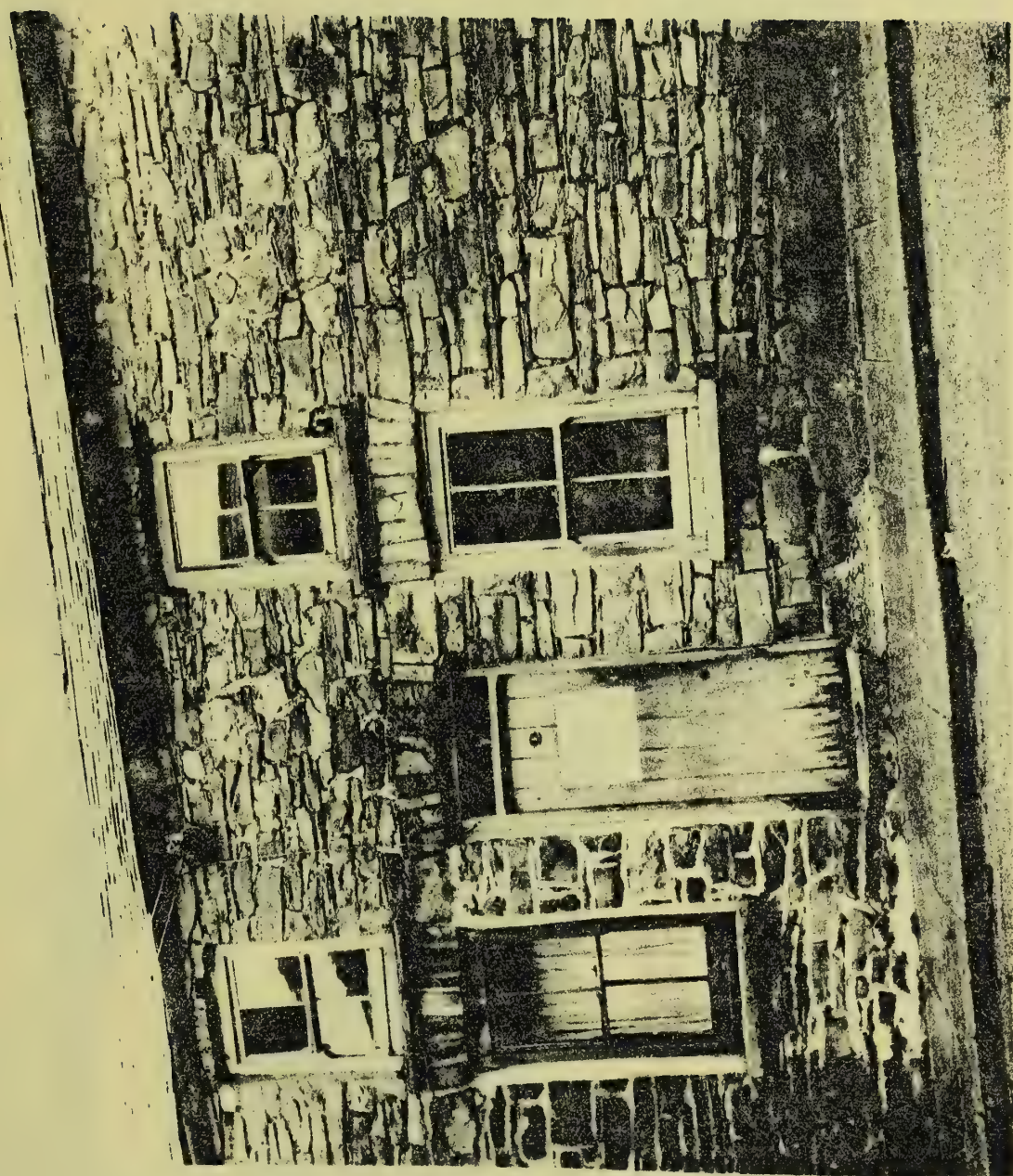
It is proposed to carry out the work in three phases, the first part scheduled for demolition being east of the railway bridge. These families are being rehoused at Fochriw - 65 families in all.

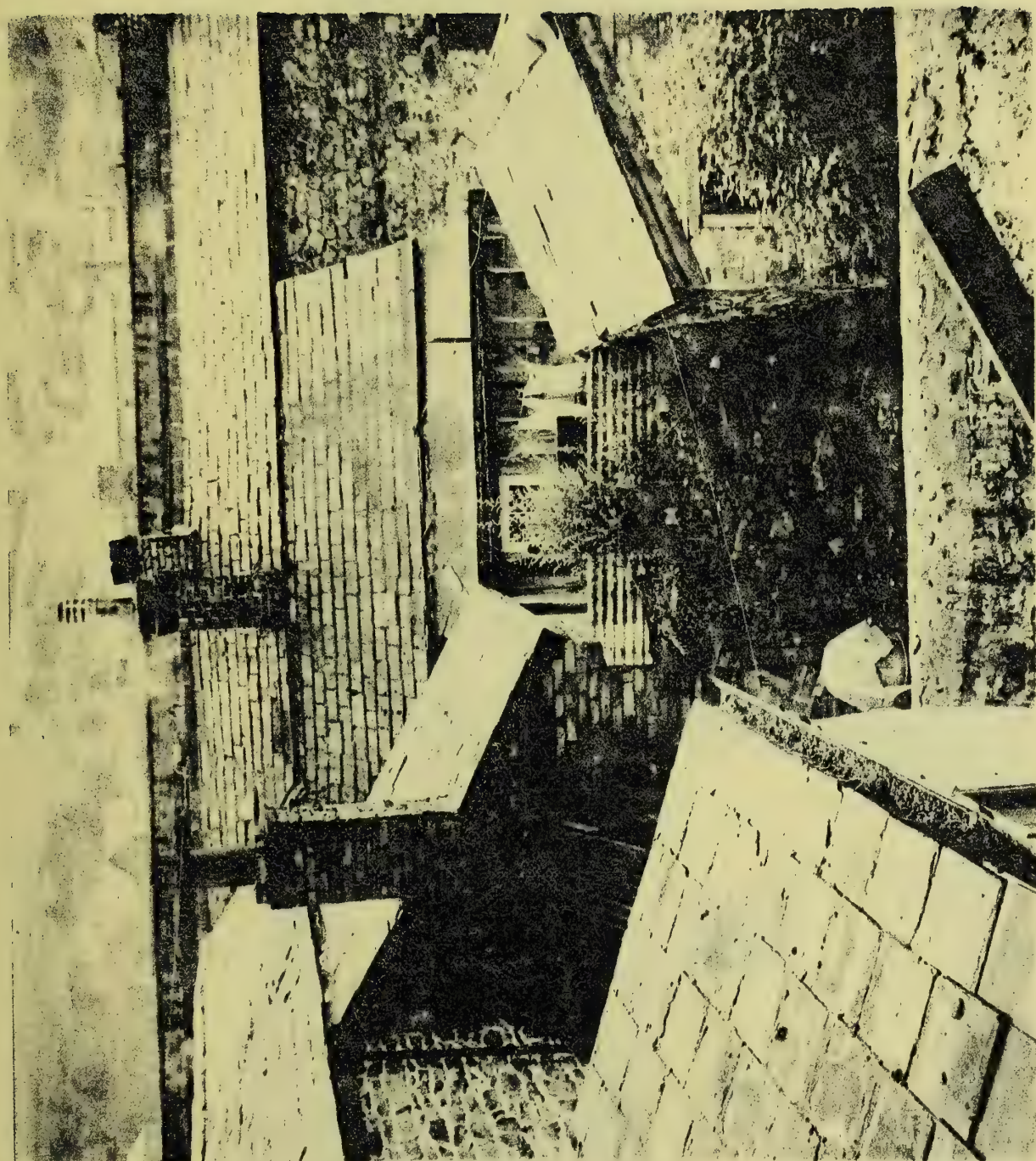
This is a social upheaval - not without its difficulties and heart-aches and the Council was happy to commend the Staff of the Housing Department for their sympathetic and patient work.

I include pictures of the old houses. These dwellings were decayed ; they fell apart when "nudged " by a mechanical shovel controlled by a skilled operator.

The second phase of the Clearance will include about 75 houses in the Heol Evan Wynne, Chapel Street and Queen Street Area. It is hoped to commence this in 1958.

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ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Conditions are similar to what they have been during the post war years. Measurement of pollution at Bargoed was continued during the year. Measurement at the Swimming Baths was discontinued in October 1954.

<u>Month</u>	<u>RAINFALL</u>	<u>TOTAL SOLIDS</u>
January	5.85 ins.	34.33 tons
February	0.15 ins.	10.30 tons
March	1.42 ins.	49.84 tons
April	1.55 ins.	16.58 tons
May	1.45 ins.	11.95 tons
June	2.83 ins.	22.02 tons
July	5.73 ins.	29.13 tons
August	5.55 ins.	20.80 tons
September	6.54 ins.	29.86 tons
October	2.07 ins.	25.84 tons
November	1.71 ins.	15.98 tons
December	7.40 ins.	35.48 tons

At Bargoed, the National Coal Board has a large Electricity Generating Station. This Station has been, and continues to be, a source of considerable atmospheric pollution. During periods of dry weather, especially in the Spring when easterly winds prevail, the residents of parts of Bargoed, of Gilfach and of Pengam are harassed by fine grey dust and grit. The dust is found on the streets and pavements; in the home, and in the pantry; and on the "washing" if the housewife attempts to dry it out of doors.

In addition, the boiler ash from the Power House is taken through the town on lorries for disposal. In dry periods, this adds to the quantity of dust carried by the wind. The boiler ash is being used by the Local Authority and privately as "in-filling" This again adds to the quantity of dust in the atmosphere.

The Council has the assurance of the Coal Board that all possible steps are being taken to minimise the nuisance from the Power House itself. Greater control of other sources of dust will have to be exercised. This includes the maintenance of the Authority's Refuse Tips.

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PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to Mr. W. H. James, B.Sc., A.M.Inst.C.E., Engineer to the Rhymney Valley Water Board, for the following report on the Public Water Supply in the Area.

Bacteriological Examination of Water

Source	Satisfactory	Just above limit for satisfactory result	Unsatisfactory	Totals
Rhymney Bridge Rservoir				
a) Raw Water	10	9	29	48
b) Treated Water	47	1	-	48
Deri Reservoir	33	12	3	48
Taf Fechan Reservoir	45	2	--	47

Great difficulty was experienced in maintaining supplies during the first half of 1946 due a) to the innumerable bursts which followed the hard frost and b) to the dry weather which lasted until June. By the end of June, however, sufficient rainfall occurred and supplies again became normal with the result that the restrictions which the Board were forced to apply from 31st. May to areas north of Bargoed, were raised as from the 6th. July. Thereafter there was no difficulty in maintaining supplies within the Area. The Board carried out no major schemes of mainlaying etc. during 1956.

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In addition to the sampling carried out by the Rhymney Valley Water Board, your Public Health Inspectors continued to take samples of the supplies. The number of samples taken is given in Mr. Thomas' Report. It is noted that a few of these were unsatisfactory. These unsatisfactory reports related to bacteriological samples in which minor deviations from the standard were observed. They were found in the water supplies coming from the Rhymney Bridge and Deri Reservoirs.

It is only necessary to repeat that continued care and vigilance is necessary to maintain a pure water supply.

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SWIMMING POOL

The Council provides a large, modern swimming pool at the Park at Bargoed. This Pool is extensively used by the public, and for swimming instruction for school children. Occasionally it becomes too popular, and it is difficult to keep the water in satisfactory condition.

Minor alterations to the water circulation have been made in the past few years to improve the chlorination of all parts of the Pool.

A toddlers' pool is also provided, which is very popular.

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS , 1955

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following report :-

Samples taken by the County Sampling Officers in the Gelligaer Urban District during the year ended 31st. December, 1957 :-

Milk	-	16	Canned Peas	-	1
Canned Fish	-	2	Soda Bicarb.	-	1
Canned Carrots	-	1	Blancmange Pwdr.	-	2
Butter	-	4	Custard Powder	-	2
Lard	-	1	Meat Roll	-	2
Self Raising Flour	-	3	Sterilised Milk	-	2
Tea	-	4	Sugar	-	3
Pastry Mixture	-	1	Mincemeat	-	1
Lentils	-	2	Mixed Peel	-	3
Canned Spaghetti	-	1	Vinegar	-	3
Prunes	-	1	Salmon Spread	-	1
Lemon Curd	-	5	Coconut	-	1
Baking Powder	-	5	Nescafe Coffee	-	1
Orange Crush	-	8	Cornflour	-	3
Margarine	-	5	Jam	-	2
Cooking Fat	-	3	Ice Cream	-	3
Sweets	-	6	Raisins	-	2
Mustard	-	2	Fish Paste	-	2
Sponge Mixture	-	12	Mixed Spice	-	1
Cake mixture	-	5	Table Jelly	-	2
Sago	-	1	Gravy Browning	-	1
Coffee & Chickory Es.	-	3	Pickled Onions	-	2
Ground Almonds	-	2	Tea Cake Mixture	-	3
Halibut Liver Oil	-	1	MA rzipan	-	2
Vitamin Capsules etc.	-	5	Glace Cherries	-	2
Aspirin Tablets	-	2	Minced Turkey	-	1
Condensed Milk	-	5	Curry Powder	-	1
Shortcake Mixture	-	1	Golden Syrup	-	2
Pearl Barley	-	1	Sage and Onions	-	1
Pickled Cabbage	-	1	Meat Paste	-	3
Chocolate Spread	-	2	Macaroni	-	2
Salad Cream	-	4	Canned Soup	-	2
Tomato Sauce	-	7	Flour	-	1
Ground Rice	-	1			

M O R T U A R Y

The Council has continued to maintain a Mortuary. During the year it was used on three occasions, only.

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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Action was taken in one case under Section 47 of the Act during the year.

A number of aged persons were visited during the year. The living conditions of a few old folk are not entirely satisfactory; but they choose the discomfort of their own fireside, rather than the warmth and regular meals of a Hostel or a Hospital.

MEAT INSPECTION

Most of the meat consumed in the area comes into the shops from the Maesycwmmmer Abattoir. To enable a full time Public Health Inspector, qualified in meat inspection, to be stationed at the Abattoir, the Gelligaer Council agreed with neighbouring Authorities to assist the Bedwas and Machen Council, in whose area the Abattoir is situated, to pay the salary of the Inspector.

Gelligaer pays 1/3rd. - which for 1956 amounted to £141. Bedwellty also pays 1/3rd., while Mynyddislwyn and Bedwas and Machen each pay 1/6th.

F O O D

No incident of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

Talks were given to the Grocers' Association at Pontlottyn by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector Vallis.

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FRESH SICKNESS CLAIMS MADE UPON THE MINISTRY
OF NATIONAL INSURANCE DURING THE YEAR 1955

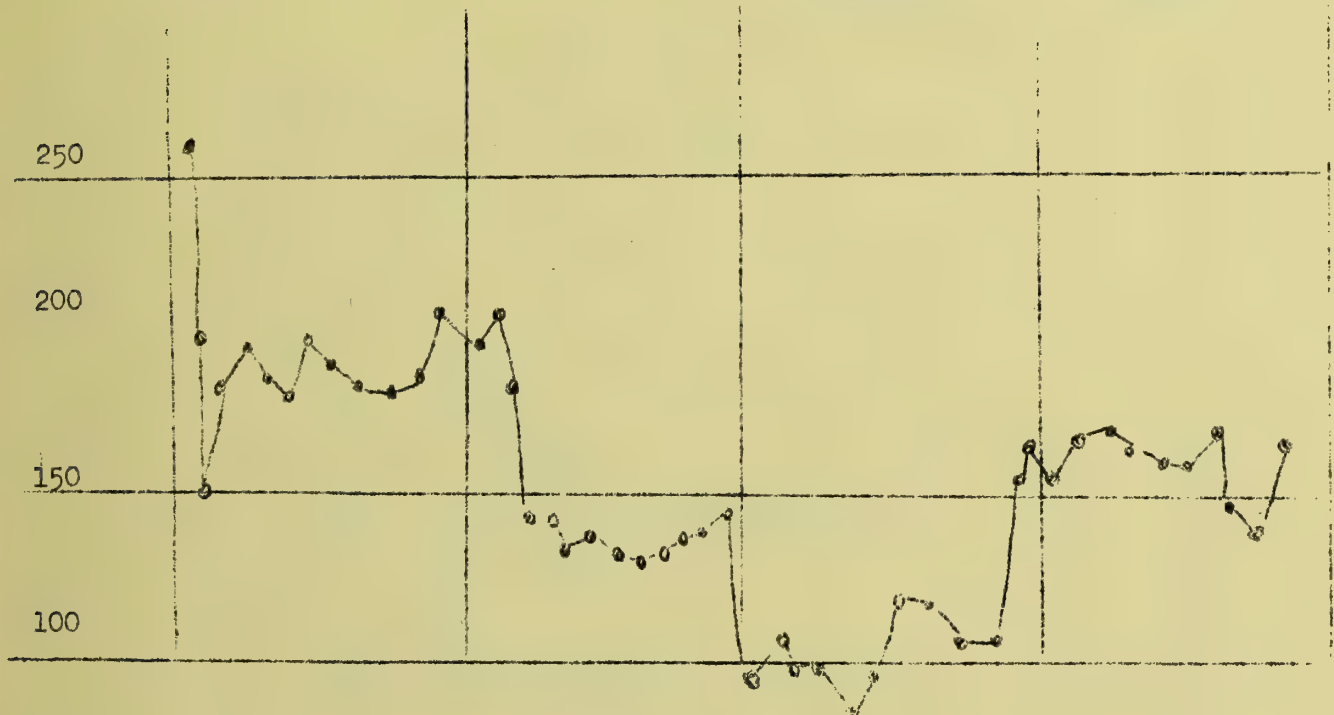
BARGOED

January to
March

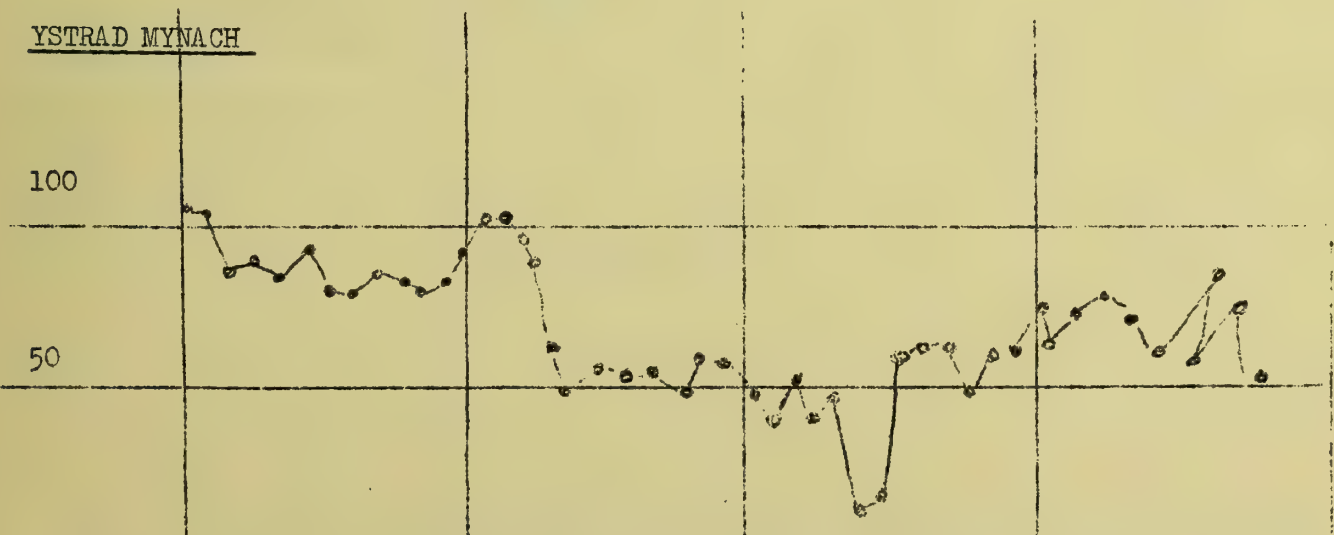
April to June

July to
September

October to
December



YSTRAD MYNACH



SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1956

The following is a report of the day-to-day work of the Department. Attention is drawn to two new enactments affecting the field of Public Health that came into force during the year :-

- 1) - The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Food Hygiene Regulations made thereunder;
- 2) - The Clean Air Act, 1955 - an Act designed to control and, if possible, prevent the pollution of the atmosphere.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

As a result of complaints received	...	...	...	...	736
In connection with housing repairs	...	...	...	...	638
In connection with dirty or verminous premises	...	...	...	...	54
As a result of Notifiable Disease	...	...	...	...	40
To Dairy premises	...	...	...	...	34
To Factories and Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	110
To Schools	...	...	...	...	75
To Piggeries and Stables	...	...	...	...	20
To Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	10
To premises without Mains Water Supply	...	...	...	...	16
To Colliery Premises	...	...	...	...	9
To Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	221
To Cinemas and Institutes	...	...	...	...	47
To Grocery and Provision Shops and Stores	...	...	...	...	278
To Butchers Shops and Sausage Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	179
To Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	117
To Industrial and School Canteens	...	...	...	...	131
To Ice Creameries	...	...	...	...	61
To Licenced Houses and Clubs	...	...	...	...	56
To Fish Frying Establishments	...	...	...	...	48
To Offensive Trade premises	...	...	...	...	19
To Refuse Dumps and Ashpits	70
Inspection of Rear Lanes	127
To Slaughterhouses	12
Revisits	1,297

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HOUSING ACT, 1936 and LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1953

Number of Demolition and Closing Orders made under the above Statutes	-	24
Number of persons displaced	-	94

These houses are additional to those dealt with by the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme at Pontlottyn.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Number of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	-	3
Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	-	2
Number of applications received for the Revocation of Certificates of Disrepair	-	1
Number of applications granted	-	nil

It will be noted from the above that less advantage is being taken of the facilities allowed than in 1955.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 92

Number of defective houses made fit by Informal action	381
Number of defective houses made fit by Formal action	111
Number of cases in which Legal Action was taken	7

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DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES

Number of notices served to cleanse or disinfect dirty or verminous houses	-	15
Number of houses sprayed or fumigated	-	43

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WATER SUPPLY

Number of existing houses provided with Mains Water Supply - 1
 Number of houses where Water Service Pipes were renewed - 9

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS

Number of samples taken - 16

Bacteriological Results :-

Satisfactory - 11
 Unsatisfactory - 5

Some of the dwelling houses demolished or closed because of unfitness for human habitation were dependant for their water supply on springs of doubtful purity.

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MILK AND DAIRIES ACT AND REGULATIONS 1949 - 1954

76 farms in the Area are producing milk, the bulk of which is collected and heat treated at Pasteurising Plants situated in other districts. Since September 1954 only Heat Treated milk, or milk produced from herds which have been certified as free from Tuberculosis by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is sold in the Area. 10 farms produce milk from Tuberculin Tested herds ; 66 farms produce Ungraded Milk, all of which is pasteurised.

Milk retailers in the Area number 31.

Frequent sampling of all grades of milk is made by the Department, and during the year 185 samples were submitted to the Laboratory for examination. Details of these are included in the following table :-

Number of samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk - 11
 Number of samples of Pasteurised Milk - 11
 Number of samples of Ungraded Milk - 87

Laboratory Results

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
T. T. Milk	7	4	11
Ungraded Milk	68	19	87
Pasteurised Milk	11	-	11
Total	86	23	109

Number of samples examined for Tubercle Bacilli - 76
 Number of samples found to contain Tubercle Bacilli - 2

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ICE CREAM

Heat Treatment Regulations 1947 - 1952

Number of Ice Cream Manufacturers in the Area	-	12
Number of Ice Cream Retailers in the Area	-	84

Number of Ice Cream samples submitted to the Laboratory for examination - 27

Laboratory results :-

Satisfactory	-	23
Unsatisfactory	-	4

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SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1954

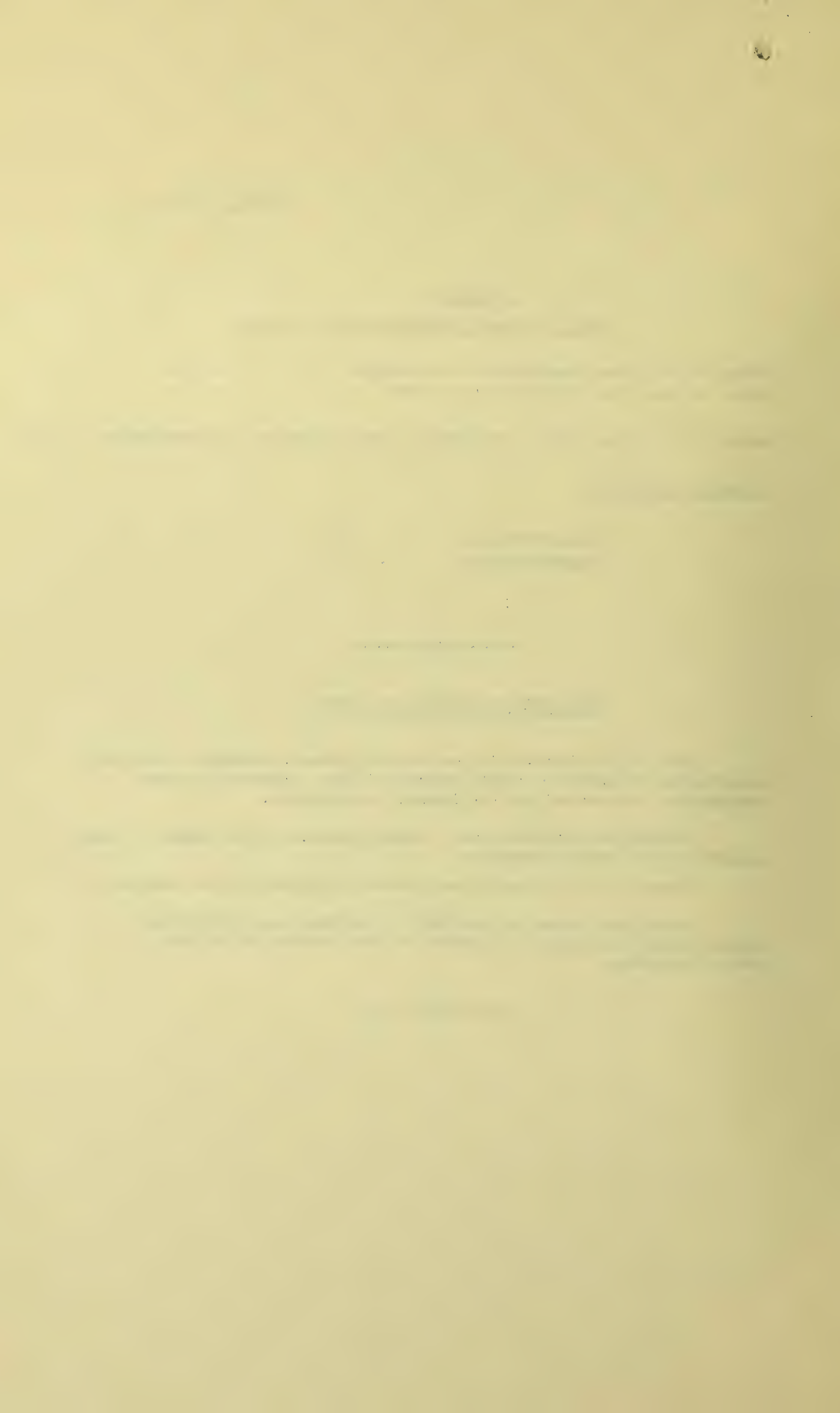
There is no Abattoir in the Area at present, although occasional slaughtering of animals - mostly cottagers' pigs intended for home consumption, - is carried out by licensed slaughtermen.

During the year there was a small increase in the number of pigs slaughtered for home consumption.

There are 12 licensed slaughtermen registered by the Authority.

As in past years, relief duty at the Maesycwmmmer Abattoir during periods of holiday or illness has been carried out by the Health Inspectors.

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS
REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

There are 21 premises in the Area registered under Section 16 of the above Act for the preparation of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods, these being concerned mainly with meat products such as sausages, faggots, meat pies.

The year 1956 commenced with notable and important changes in the powers of control and enforcement vested in Local Authorities in connection with food premises. On January 1st., a new and amended Food and Drugs Act came into force, together with the Food Hygiene Regulations made under Section 17 of that Act. Some of the Regulations are entirely new, and more stringent than formerly - e.g. - the complete prohibition of smoking or spitting by persons employed where open food is sold ; the use of newspapers or similar wrapping for packing certain foodstuffs is now prohibited; the provision in more specific terms than previously of washing facilities for all persons employed in the handling of foods.

During the year under review the Department continued to give daily attention to food premises in an effort to bring them up to the standards demanded. Evidence of these efforts are to be seen in the generally improved appearance of food shop interiors and fittings. The provision of glass display screens on shop counters so as to prevent customers contaminating food by breathing or coughing on the displayed goods, the greater use of refrigerators and frozen food display cabinets, the use of formica or similar easily cleansed materials for counter or cafe table tops - all these items contribute their share to a better standard of cleanliness of food shops.

To assist shopkeepers in a better understanding of the new Law and its demands, several hundred copies of the new Regulations were distributed to them personally by the Department's Officers.

While on the subject of food hygiene, favourable reference must be made to the efforts of one multiple store which has recently pioneered in the district the preparation and sale of pre-packed meats to their customers, an example which has been followed by a small group of shops belonging to a family butcher..

SURVEY OF SCHOOL CANTEENS

All the School Canteens in the area were inspected during the year, and a comprehensive report was sent to the County Medical Officer.

In general, the conditions were satisfactory. Some improvements are desirable, and are gradually being brought about.



FOOD PREMISES

Principal food premises in the Area are as follows :-

Grocery Stores	-	107
Buthhers' Shops	-	36
Bakers	-	9
Ice Cream Producers	-	15
Ice Cream Vendors	-	84
Cafes & Restaurants	-	21

In addition, there are a large number of front room or parlour type shops.

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS (SURRENDERED)

<u>Articles</u>	<u>Disease or Unsound</u>	<u>Weight in Pounds</u>
Fresh Beef	Bone taint and decomposition	244
Canned Ham	Putrified and "blown"	605
Corned Beef	"Blown" and decomposed	322
Ox and Lambs Tongues	"Blown" and Decomposed	52
Other Canned Meats	"Blown" and decomposed	202
Canned Vegetables	Punctured and/or "Blown"	180
Canned Fruits	Punctured and/or "Blown"	1190
Flour and Cake Mixture	Parasites	.34
Fresh Fish	Decomposition and staleness	58
Canned and Dried Fish	"Blown" and damaged tins	54
Dried fruits	Mite Infested	68
Canned Milk and cream	"Blown" and damaged tins	185
Cheese	Mites and decomposed	32
Other foodstuffs	"Blown" and damaged tins	115

Total weight - 1 ton 9 cwt. 93 lbs.

All unsound food is disposed of by collection and burial on the Council's Refuse Tips.

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FOOD RESIDUES

Principal food residues in the area are as follows:-

107	-	Grocery Stores
30	-	Restaurants, Hotels
2	-	Barbers
12	-	Ice Cream Vendors
24	-	Ice Cream Vendors
21	-	Cafes & Restaurants

In addition, there are a large number of small shops of various types.

UNRECORDED RESIDUES

Weight in Pounds	Location of Residue	Article
244	3rd, 4th and 5th	Fresh Meat
605	"Blown" and "Blown"	Canned Ham
322	"Blown" and "Blown"	Canned Beef
22	"Blown" and "Blown"	On and Lamb Tongues
202	"Blown" and "Blown"	Other Canned Meats
180	Unrecorded and/or "Blown"	Canned Vegetables
1190	Unrecorded and/or "Blown"	Canned Fruit
34	Unrecorded	Flour and Corn Meal
28	Unrecorded and "Blown"	Fresh Fish
24	"Blown" and damaged fish	Canned and Dried Fish
28	Wine and "Blown"	Dried Fruit
192	"Blown" and damaged fish	Canned Milk and Cream
22	Wine and "Blown"	Cheese
112	"Blown" and damaged fish	Other Foodstuffs

Total weight - 1 ton 9 cwt. 12 lbs.

All unrecorded food is disposed of by collection and burial on the Council's refuse tips.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 69 Factories operating in the Area. These include Joineries, Bakeries, Engineering and other trades.

Without mechanical power to which sections 2,3,4,5,6,7 of the Factories Act applies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
With mechanical power to which section 7 only applies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Number of inspections made during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Notices served for want of cleanliness	3
Number of notices served requiring structural repairs	1

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RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

In co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, two seasonal treatments - one in May and one in November - for the control of rats in sewers were carried out, entailing the employment of one additional man for one month.

Surface infestations dealt with are summarised below :-

		<u>Inspected</u>	<u>Treated</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
Dwelling Houses	-	450	125	600
Business Premises	-	50	38	152
Refuse Tips	-	9	9	63
Brooks and Rivers	-	12	12	33

The banks of the Rhymney River were treated in co-operation with the Rodent Officers of neighbouring Local Authorities. Through the courtesy of the National Coal Board and the Managers of the local collieries, inspections were carried out above and below ground at the six collieries in the Area. Reports of inspections were sent to the National Coal Board.

Another service performed by the Department was the disinfection of premises affected by vermin, with the introduction of modern insecticides this work is done more expeditiously nowadays.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. THOMAS

Senior Public Health Inspector

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 63 factories operating in the area. These include
factories, bakeries, engineering and other trades.

Without mechanical power to which section 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 of the Factories Act applies	5
With mechanical power to which section 7 only applies	58
Number of inspections made during the year	36
Notices served for want of cleanliness	3
Number of notices served requiring structural repairs	1

ROBERT AND TONY DOWNEY

In co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, two
seasonal investigations were in May and one in November - for the control of
rats in cases where carried out, resulting in the employment of one addition man
for one month.

Further information dealt with are summarized below:-

Investigated	Treated	Yards No. in
130	152	400
30	38	122
2	2	62
12	12	22
-	-	Brooks and Rivers
-	-	Salmon Tugs
-	-	Business Premises
-	-	Isolating Houses

The ponds of the Tynnyr River were treated in co-operation with the Robert
Office of neighbouring local authorities. Through the courtesy of the
National Coal Board and the Managers of the local collieries, investigations
were carried out above and below ground at the six collieries in the area.
Reports of investigations were sent to the National Coal Board.

Another service performed by the Department was the disinfection of premises
affected by vermin, with the introduction of modern insecticides this work
is done more expeditiously nowadays.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. THOMAS

Deputy Public Health Inspector